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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 20, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: MONDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORT BOTH SIDES AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO DISENGAGEMENT LINE, SAY HAK WILL SHUTTLE BETWEEN CAPITALS UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED. AFTERNOON WIRES REPORT "GOOD PROGRESS" MADE IN TALKS WITH ASSAD, ACCORD COMPLETED "FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES." MUCH SPECULATION ON DETAILS OF AGREEMENT.

1. GWERTZMAN LEADS WITH PERES STATEMENT BOTH ISRAEL AND SYRIA CAN ACCEPT COMPROMISE CEASE-FIRE LINE IN PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD STORY "ISRAEL AND SYRIA READY TO ACCEPT CEASE-FIRE LINE" (PIX PAGE 3 OF HAK WITH EBAN AND KEATING). AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY HAK NOW BELIEVES ACCORD IN SIGHT, WILL SHUTTLE BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED. SPOKESMAN ANDERSON REPORTS "THE ISRAELI SIDE EXPRESSED A FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TO THE US PROPOSAL ON THE LINE." HAK DESCRIBED BY ASSOCIATE AS "TERRIBLY DEPRESSED" YESTERDAY MORNING, BUT IN GOOD MOOD TODAY. GWERTZMAN REPORTS SIZE OF BUFFER ZONE, UN ROLE IN SUPERVISING ZONE, LIMIT ON UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCES IN AREAS ADJACENT TO BUFFER ZONE, AND RELEASE OF

PRISONERS STILL UNRESOLVED. ISRAEL REPORTEDLY WANTS CERTAIN GUARANTEES FROM US SIMILAR TO THOSE INCLUDED BUT NOT PUBLISHED IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT. HAK HAS ASKED ISRAEL TO STEM REPORTS IN ISRAELI PRESS CHARACTERIZING DETAILS OF AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO GWERTZMAN. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION IS NUMBER AND KINDS OF ARMAMENTS PERMITTED IN ZONES WHERE TWO SIDES WILL HAVE LIMITED FORCES.

2. BERGER REPORTS HAK WINS INFORMAL AGREEMENT FROM ISRAEL ON DISENGAGEMENT LINE IN PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD ARTICLE "GOLAN PULLBACK LINE ACCEPTED BY ISRAEL," (PIX PAGE 10 SHOW HAK SHAKING HANDS WITH MOTORCYCLE ESCORT IN JERUSALEM). SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY AGREEMENT REACHED IN PRINCIPLE ON ALL ISSUES, ALTHOUGH FILLING IN DETAILS MAY TAKE THREE OR FOUR MORE SHUTTLES BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM. US OFFICIALS INJECT MORE CAUTION INTO STATEMENTS ABOUT INEVITABILITY OF AGREEMENT, SAY TALKS COULD STILL BREAK DOWN OVER TECHNICALITY. HOWEVER, BERGER REPORTS GENERAL OPTIMISM, SEES HAK KEEPING UP PRESSURE ON BOTH SIDES BY INDICATING HE CANNOT STAY IN REGION MORE THAN ANOTHER WEEK.

3. GLOBE REPEATS BERGER STORY PAGE 1. JHABVALA HAS PAGE 10 NOTEBOOK "UNIVERSITIES NO LONGER KISSINGER'S HOME SWEET HOME." SAYS ACADEMIA HAS NOT "TAKEN HIM TO BOSOM" THIS YEAR. QUOTES HAK UPON HEARING OF REPORTER RECEIVING HONORARY DEGREE JUNE 5: "ARE YOU? THAT'S MORE THAN WHAT I GET THESE DAYS FROM UNIVERSITIES."

4. O'LEARY PIECE APPEARS PAGE 2 UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER TRYING TO SEAL ACCORD," HAS SENIOR US OFFICIAL CAUTIONING NEWSMEN AGREEMENT NOT YET WRAPPED UP BUT SUGGESTING DETAILS WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN NEXT FOUR DAYS. O'LEARY REPORTS SIGNING COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE END OF WEEK, PROBABLY IN GENEVA. SAYS HAK WILL REMAIN IN MIDEAST AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE AGREEMENT, WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON END OF WEEK AFTER STOPS IN CAIRO AND LONDON.

5. AP MORNING LEAD FROM SCHWEID REPORTS FIRST DETAILS OF AGREEMENT NOW SURFACING. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS BUFFER

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ZONE SEPARATING TWO ARMIES WILL VARY IN DEPTH FROM LESS THAN HALF MILE TO SLIGHTLY OVER ONE MILE. SAME OFFICIAL SAYS ISRAEL AGREES TO PERMIT SYRIAN POLICEMEN RE-ENTER TOWNS WITHIN DEMILITARIZED ZONE ALONG WITH SYRIAN CIVILIANS. NEWSMEN TOLD VERIFICATION OF THINNING OUT OF ARMOR BEHIND DISENGAGEMENT LINES NO PROBLEM BECAUSE DISTANCES INVOLVED NOT GREAT. US OFFICIALS SAY HAK EXPECTS NO DIFFICULTY ARRANGING EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS. HAK MEETS TODAY

WITH ASSAD AND KHADDAM TO GET DISENGAGEMENT LINE "BUTTONED UP," ACCORDING TO US OFFICIALS. AFTERNOON WIRES CARRY HAK STATEMENT TO EFFECT "GOOD PROGRESS" MADE ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF DISENGAGEMENT IN TALKS WITH ASSAD. SCHWEID

REPORTS HAK LOOKING TIRED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR ISRAEL, SAYS TALKS CONCENTRATED ON THINNING OUT OPPOSING ARMIES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. HAK SAYS HE AND ASSAD CONTINUED "EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WHICH AS USUAL WERE CONDUCTED IN A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT."

LATE REPORT FROM SCHWEID HAS SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYING HAK COMPLETED AGREEMENT "FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES" WITH ASSAD. HAK ALSO SAID TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS ON DELINEATION OF BUFFER ZONE TO BE MANNED BY UN FORCES. NEWSMEN ON PLANE TOLD HAK PLANS RETURN TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ALL POINTS IN SETTLEMENT PACKAGE RESOLVED. SUBSEQUENT AP STORY GIVES DETAILS OF PROVISIONAL DISENGAGEMENT DEAL FROM "SENIOR DIPLOMATS" WHO HAVE BEEN KEPT UP TO DATE ON HAK'S PEACE MISSION. SAYS ISRAEL WILL PULL BACK FROM 325 SQUARE MILES OF SYRIAN TERRITORY WON IN 1973 WAR PLUS QUNEITRA AND BUTNIYA. SYRIA REPORTEDLY ACCEPTS UN SUPERVISION OVER ITS REPOPULATION, RECONSTRUCTION AND DEMILITARIZATION OF THESE TWO AREAS AND ACCEPTS ISRAELI RETENTION OF THREE HILLS SOUTH AND WEST OF QUNEITRA. ISRAEL ALSO WILL PULL BACK FROM RAFID AND BUTMIYA IN TERRITORY WON IN 1967 AND WILL RELINQUISH POSITION ON PEAK OF MT. HERMON, KEEPING TWO OTHER MT. HERMON POSITIONS ENABLING ITS FORCES TO KEEP WATCH ON ROAD TO DAMASCUS.

6. UPI MORNING WIRE HAS HAK ARRIVING IN DAMASCUS TO GET SYRIA'S FINAL AGREEMENT ON "KISSINGER LINE" SEPARATING UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL ABOARD HAK PLANE SAYS TWO SIDES BASICALLY AGREE ON BUFFER ZONE VARYING IN WIDTH FROM TWO TO SIX KILOMETERS. SAME OFFICIAL SAYS TOUGHEST ISSUES REMAIN LIMITATION OF FORCES ON BOTH SIDES OF CEASE-FIRE LINE AND BUFFER ZONE. UPI REPORTS FIRST DETAILS OF DEAL EMERGE TODAY IN ISRAELI PRESS, INDICATING ISRAEL FOR FIRST TIME HAS BARGAINED AWAY FRONTIER SETTLEMENT LAND AS PART OF DISENGAGEMENT PLAN. REPEATS DETAILS OF STORY CARRIED IN MA'ARIV. AFTERNOON WIRE COVERS HAK DEPARTURE FROM DAMASCUS, CARRIES HAK QUOTE TO EFFECT "GOOD PROGRESS" MADE AND "WE HAVE CONTINUED TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL."

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